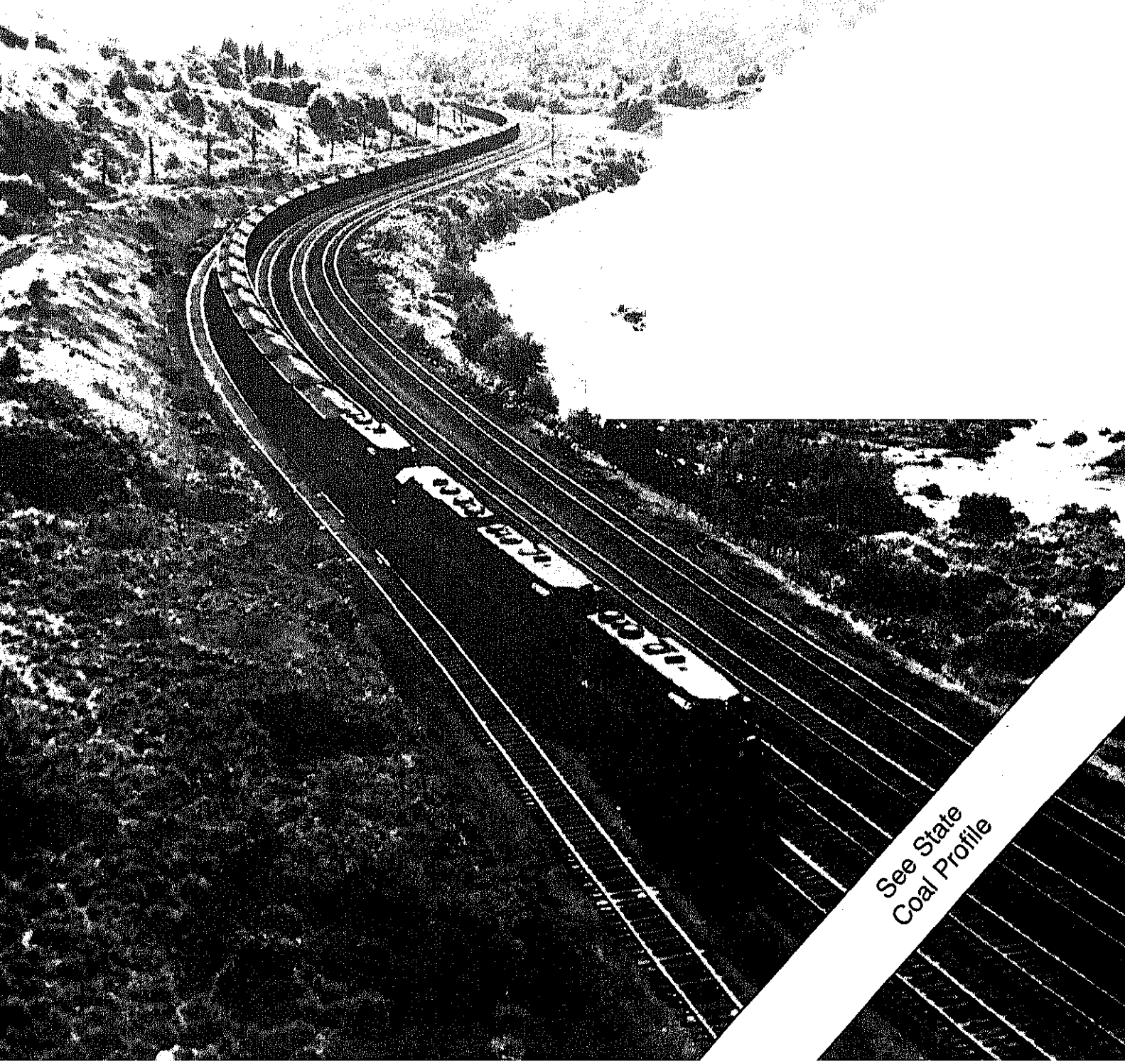
DOE/EIA-0218(92-17)

Weekly Coal Production

Energy
Information
Administration

Production for Week Ended:
April 18, 1992



Preface

The *Weekly Coal Production (WCP)* report provides weekly estimates of U.S. coal production by State.

Preliminary coal production data are published quarterly, based on production data collected using Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report." Based on 1988 through 1990 data, the coal production estimation error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the sum of the weekly estimates for a quarter and the quarterly EIA-6 preliminary data) ranges from 1 percent to 4 percent for 1988, 1 percent to 2 percent for 1989, and 0.3 percent to 3 percent for 1990.

Final coal production data are published annually, based on the EIA-7A coal production survey. Based on 1988 through 1990 data, the revision error for a quarter at the national level (i.e., the difference between the EIA-6 preliminary data and the EIA-7A final data) ranges from 0.02 percent to 0.08 percent for 1988, 0.09 percent to 0.14 percent for 1989, and 0.01 percent to 0.05 percent for 1990. Usually the EIA-7A coal production data are higher than the EIA-6 coal production data, due to the differences in the threshold reporting requirements. This publication is prepared by the Survey Management Division; Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels; Energy Information Administration (EIA) to fulfill its data collection and dissemination responsibilities as specified in the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-275) as amended. *Weekly Coal Production* is intended for use by industry, press, State and local governments, and consumers. Other publications that may be of interest are the quarterly *Coal Distribution*, the *Quarterly Coal Report*, *Coal Production 1990*, and *Coal Data: A Reference*.

This publication was prepared by Wayne M. Watson under the direction of Mary K. Paull, Team Leader, Coal Data Systems, and Noel C. Balthasar, Chief, Coal and Uranium Data Systems Branch. Specific information about the *State Coal Profile: Wyoming* may be obtained from Eugene R. Slatick at 202/254-5384. *Questions on energy statistics should be directed to the National Energy Information Center (NEIC) at 202/586-8800.*

Photo Credit:

Richard W. Jones, Geological Survey of Wyoming.

State Coal Profile

Distribution Category UC-950

Released for printing April 24, 1992

Contents

Summary

This *Weekly Coal Production (WCP)* report contains U.S. coal production estimates for the week ended April 18, 1992 (Tables 1 and 2) and a summary of revised 1991 preliminary production estimates, by month, for each coal-producing State (Tables 3 and 4).

U.S. coal production in the week ended April 18, 1992, as estimated by the Energy Information Administration,totaled 18 million short tons. This was about the same as in the previous week and 7 percent higher than in the comparable week in 1991.

Production east of the Mississippi River totaled 11 million short tons, and production west of the Mississippi River totaled 7 million short tons.

Figure 1. Coal Production

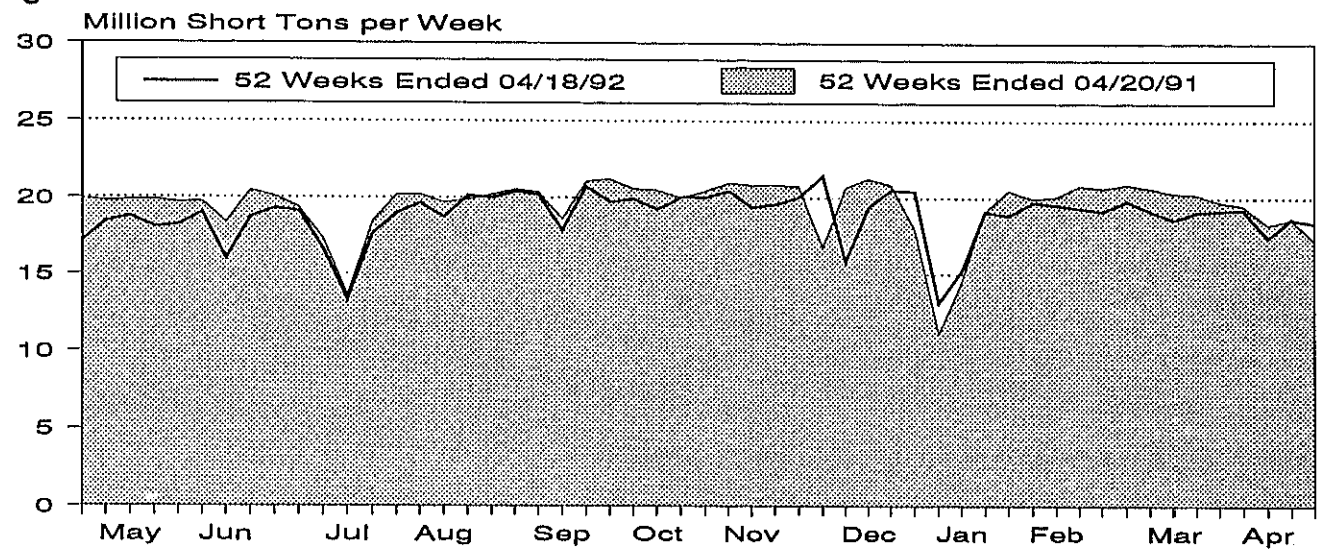


Table 1. Weekly U.S. Coal Production Overview

Production and Carloadings	Week Ended 04/18/92	Week Ended 04/11/92	Week Ended 04/20/91	52 Weeks Ended 04/18/92	52 Weeks Ended 04/20/91	Percent Change
Production (Thousand Short Tons)						
Bituminous Coal[1] and Lignite . . .	18,337	18,626	17,118	977,485	1,010,168	-3.2
Pennsylvania Anthracite	44	49	52	3,049	3,359	-9.2
U.S. Total	18,380	18,675	17,170	980,534	1,013,527	-3.3
Railroad Cars Loaded	118,191	120,065	111,446	6,458,981	6,581,203	-1.9

[1]Includes subbituminous coal.

Notes: All data are preliminary. Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

Sources: Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division, Weekly Statement CS-54A; Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report"; and State mining agency coal production reports.

Table 2. Weekly Coal Production by Region and State
(Thousand Short Tons)

Region and State	Week Ended 04/18/92	04/11/92	04/20/91
Bituminous Coal[1] and Lignite			
East of the Mississippi	**11,071**	**11,275**	**9,872**
Alabama	540	574	507
Illinois	1,174	1,174	906
Indiana	556	516	591
Kentucky	2,852	2,897	2,589
Kentucky, Eastern	2,098	2,169	1,863
Kentucky, Western	754	728	726
Maryland	65	68	53
Ohio	517	557	540
Pennsylvania Bituminous	1,226	1,268	1,113
Tennessee	89	90	85
Virginia	824	834	660
West Virginia	3,228	3,296	2,828
West of the Mississippi	**7,265**	**7,351**	**7,247**
Alaska	30	31	27
Arizona	224	227	236
Arkansas	1	1	*
Colorado	329	335	333
Iowa	6	7	6
Kansas	10	11	9
Louisiana	46	66	38
Missouri	41	42	34
Montana	682	676	657
New Mexico	382	431	336
North Dakota	516	511	522
Oklahoma	51	49	26
Texas	934	948	908
Utah	416	434	393
Washington	96	97	79
Wyoming	3,501	3,485	3,642
Bituminous[1] and Lignite Total	**18,337**	**18,626**	**17,118**
Pennsylvania Anthracite	**44**	**49**	**52**
U.S. Total	**18,380**	**18,675**	**17,170**

[1]Includes subbituminous coal.
*Less than 0.5 thousand short tons.
Notes: All data are preliminary. Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.
Sources: Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division, Weekly Statement CS-54A; Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report"; and State mining agency coal production reports.

Table 3. Coal Production by Region and State, January-June 1991
(Thousand Short Tons)

Region and State	January	February	March	April	May	June	January-June
Bituminous Coal[1] and Lignite							
East of the Mississippi	**51,119**	**48,527**	**50,680**	**46,416**	**47,788**	**46,710**	**291,240**
Alabama	2,419	2,150	2,265	2,341	2,471	2,375	14,021
Illinois	5,399	5,176	5,135	4,407	4,301	4,418	28,835
Indiana	2,625	2,498	2,706	2,595	2,537	2,553	15,515
Kentucky	13,719	13,240	13,399	12,021	12,437	12,181	76,997
Kentucky, Eastern	10,044	9,556	9,992	8,781	9,259	8,874	56,507
Kentucky, Western	3,674	3,684	3,407	3,239	3,178	3,307	20,490
Maryland	320	309	322	251	300	285	1,787
Ohio	2,704	2,570	2,707	2,512	2,551	2,518	15,564
Pennsylvania Bituminous	5,125	4,977	5,590	5,251	5,142	5,046	31,132
Tennessee	432	391	414	404	376	370	2,387
Virginia	4,004	3,635	3,844	3,199	3,705	3,636	22,024
West Virginia	14,373	13,581	14,297	13,435	13,967	13,327	82,979
West of the Mississippi	**34,731**	**34,104**	**34,367**	**32,831**	**32,047**	**30,103**	**198,183**
Alaska	97	104	107	125	126	122	680
Arizona	1,060	1,130	1,163	1,093	1,100	1,059	6,604
Arkansas	7	2	2	1	6	7	25
Colorado	1,714	1,657	1,466	1,535	1,477	1,353	9,202
Iowa	33	31	32	27	27	26	175
Kansas	53	39	40	40	41	39	252
Louisiana	233	214	253	211	188	179	1,277
Missouri	208	157	161	159	160	154	997
Montana	3,061	3,034	3,059	3,021	3,009	2,813	17,996
New Mexico	1,917	1,660	1,701	1,589	2,020	2,015	10,903
North Dakota	2,620	2,596	2,618	2,383	2,227	2,082	14,526
Oklahoma	155	144	123	124	140	142	828
Texas	4,508	4,185	4,306	4,199	4,226	4,069	25,493
Utah	2,013	1,963	1,750	1,832	1,801	1,674	11,033
Washington	358	419	431	367	369	355	2,298
Wyoming	16,694	16,770	17,156	16,125	15,131	14,016	95,892
Bituminous[1] and Lignite Total	**85,850**	**82,630**	**85,048**	**79,247**	**79,835**	**76,813**	**489,423**
Pennsylvania Anthracite	**248**	**243**	**259**	**230**	**224**	**236**	**1,442**
U.S. Total	**86,098**	**82,874**	**85,307**	**79,478**	**80,059**	**77,049**	**490,865**

[1]Includes subbituminous coal.

Notes: All data are preliminary. Totals may not equal sum

Sources: Association of American Railroads, Transportation Administration, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EI coal production reports.

Table 4. Coal Production by Region and State, July-December 1991
(Thousand Short Tons)

Region and State	July	August	September	October	November	December	July-December	January-December
Bituminous Coal[1] and Lignite								
East of the Mississippi	45,393	53,221	49,032	54,749	48,407	44,624	295,426	586,666
Alabama	1,948	2,479	2,171	2,351	2,244	2,075	13,268	27,289
Illinois	4,845	5,135	5,003	5,121	4,785	4,900	29,789	58,624
Indiana	2,590	2,598	2,640	3,113	2,546	2,434	15,921	31,436
Kentucky	12,557	14,775	13,202	14,861	13,212	12,321	80,929	157,925
Kentucky, Eastern	9,225	10,831	9,791	11,446	9,611	9,277	60,181	116,689
Kentucky, Western	3,332	3,944	3,411	3,415	3,601	3,044	20,747	41,237
Maryland	331	386	351	384	342	330	2,124	3,912
Ohio	2,221	2,649	2,395	2,862	2,310	1,976	14,413	29,977
Pennsylvania Bituminous	4,583	5,800	5,602	6,484	5,269	3,887	31,625	62,757
Tennessee	313	374	334	328	262	254	1,864	4,251
Virginia	3,437	4,096	3,658	3,847	3,369	3,271	21,679	43,703
West Virginia	12,568	14,927	13,675	15,398	14,068	13,177	83,813	166,792
West of the Mississippi	34,352	35,629	32,501	35,558	33,323	34,759	206,123	404,306
Alaska	92	104	97	166	150	145	754	1,434
Arizona	986	1,113	1,022	1,249	1,131	1,098	6,599	13,203
Arkansas	4	4	4	3	3	3	20	45
California	-	-	-	37	14	-	51	51
Colorado	1,187	1,418	1,266	1,526	1,513	1,290	8,200	17,403
Iowa	29	33	30	30	27	26	175	350
Kansas	27	29	27	31	23	26	164	416
Louisiana	350	299	295	352	314	255	1,864	3,142
Missouri	200	222	204	209	189	182	1,206	2,203
Montana	3,491	3,432	3,062	3,475	3,216	3,445	20,121	38,117
New Mexico	1,312	1,834	1,730	2,225	1,969	1,776	10,846	21,748
North Dakota	2,534	2,491	2,223	2,676	2,453	2,627	15,004	29,530
Oklahoma	191	179	165	131	164	198	1,028	1,856
Texas	4,797	5,429	4,966	4,690	4,244	4,093	28,219	53,712
Utah	1,644	1,858	1,672	1,894	1,895	1,790	10,753	21,787
Washington	461	508	468	507	459	447	2,850	5,148
Wyoming	17,048	16,678	15,269	16,357	15,561	17,358	98,270	194,162
Bituminous[1] and Lignite Total	79,745	88,851	81,533	90,307	81,730	79,383	501,548	990,972
Pennsylvania Anthracite	253	313	285	346	299	238	1,734	3,175
U.S. Total	79,998	89,163	81,818	90,654	82,029	79,620	503,282	994,147

[1]Includes subbituminous coal.

Note: All data are preliminary. Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

Sources: Association of American Railroads, Transportation Division, Weekly Statement CS-54A; Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report"; Form EIA-7A, "Coal Production Report"; and State mining agency coal production reports.

Coal Production Data Comparison, 1991

Coal Production by State, 1991
(Thousand Short Tons)

State	Weekly Estimates	EIA-6	Percent Variance
Alabama	27,407	27,289	0.4
Alaska	1,536	1,434	7.1
Arizona	11,155	13,203	-15.5
Arkansas	39	1	97.4
California	51	51	0.0
Colorado	19,629	17,403	12.8
Illinois	60,018	58,624	2.4
Indiana	36,539	31,436	16.2
Iowa	345	350	- 1.4
Kansas	744	416	78.9
Kentucky	154,957	157,925	- 1.9
Kentucky, Eastern	117,164	116,689	0.4
Kentucky, Western	37,793	41,237	- 8.4
Louisiana	3,172	3,142	1.0
Maryland	3,217	3,912	-17.7
Missouri	2,416	2,203	9.6
Montana	38,481	38,117	1.0
New Mexico	24,531	21,748	12.8
North Dakota	30,173	29,530	2.2
Ohio	32,253	29,977	7.6
Oklahoma	1,868	1,856	0.7
Pennsylvania	66,986	65,932	1.6
Anthracite	2,580	3,175	-18.8
Bituminous	64,406	62,757	2.6
Tennessee	5,842	4,251	37.4
Texas	56,632	53,712	5.4
Utah	22,344	21,787	2.6
Virginia	43,672	43,703	- 0.1
Washington	4,770	5,148	-
West Virginia	159,512	166,792	-
Wyoming	195,593	194,162	
U.S. Total	1,003,883	994,147	

Notes: EIA-6 coal production data for Arkansas is low, beca threshhold for reporting companies on the Form EIA-6 was 50,000 shor of the coal producing companies in Arkansas fell under the threshho beginning with the 1992 data, the threshhold for the State has been

Sources: Energy Information Administration, *Weekly Coal Producti* EIA-6, "Coal Distribution Report."

State Coal Profile: Wyoming

Total Area of State:

97,914 square miles

Area Underlain by Coal:

40,055 square miles

Demonstrated Reserve Base of Coal:
(January 1, 1991)

68 billion short tons
(14 percent of U.S. total)

First Year of Documented Coal Production:

1865 (800 short tons)

Peak Year of Coal Production:

1990 (184 million short tons)

1990 Coal Production:

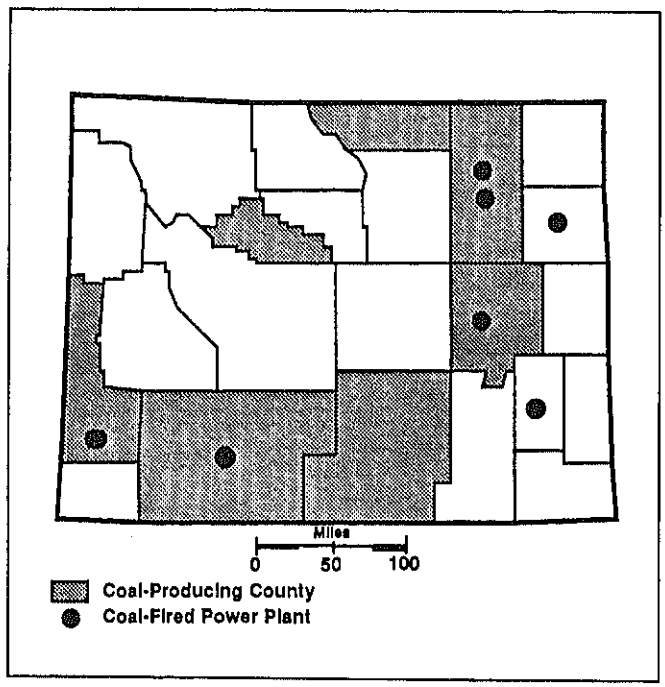
184 million short tons
(18 percent of U.S. total)

1990 f.o.b. Mine Price:

$8.43 per short ton
(U.S. average = $21.76)

1990 Coal Consumption:

26 million short tons
(3 percent of U.S. total)



	Number	Percentage of U.S. Total
Number of Mines (1990)	33	1
Underground	4	< 1
Surface	29	2
Number of Miners (1990)		
(at mines producing more than 10,000 short tons)	3,330	3
Underground	255	< 1
Surface	3,075	7

Average Quality of Utility Coal Receipts (1990)	Wyoming	U.S. Average
Heat Content (million Btu per short ton)	17.6	20.9
Sulfur Content (percent by weight)	0.5	1.3
Ash Content (percent by weight)	7.7	9.9

Wyoming, the fastest-growing coal-producing State over the past two decades, has been the Nation's leading coal producer since 1988. The dramatic rise in the State's coal output reflects the steadily increasing demand for its low-sulfur coal. Vast amounts of this coal underlie sparsely populated areas in thick, flat-lying beds that can be mined by large-scale surface methods. Despite the high rate of production, the recoverable coal reserves at Wyoming's active mines in 1990 were estimated at 6.6 billion short tons, the largest in the United States.

Coal is Wyoming's second most valuable mineral commodity after crude oil. The 184 million short tons of coal produced in 1990 were valued at $1.6 billion, accounting for about 28 percent of the total value of all mineral production in the State. The mine price of Wyoming's coal in 1990 averaged $8.43 per short ton, the Nation's lowest after North Dakota's lignite. About 95 percent of Wyoming's coal production was from Federal leases. This generated $111 million in royalties, which were disbursed to the State and Federal Governments.

Coal is present in Wyoming in 10 major coal-bearing regions that underlie 41 percent of the State. Most of these are broad geologic basins with relatively flat-lying strata. Although coal rank ranges from lignite to bituminous, subbituminous coal composes 91 percent of the State's demonstrated reserve base.

In 1990, coal was produced in seven counties, with Campbell County accounting for 84 percent of the total. The large Powder River Basin, which includes Campbell County, in northeastern Wyoming is the center of the State's coal industry. Production in the basin is chiefly from the Wyodak coalbed, which accounted for 154 million short tons in 1990, more than 80 percent of the State total. The Wyodak is the thickest coalbed mined in the United States, averaging about 70 feet in thickness and exceeding 100 feet in places. It has been the Nation's leading source of coal for about a decade.

Of the total coal produced in Wyoming in 1990, about 99 percent was subbituminous coal and 1 percent was bituminous coal. The "as-received" heat content of the subbituminous coal averaged about 17 million Btu per short ton, and the bituminous coal averaged 20 million Btu per short ton. The coal produced contained an average of 0.4 percent sulfur by weight, and less than 6 percent ash. The moisture content of the subbituminous coal averaged over 20 percent, about twice that of bituminous coal. Some high-quality Wyoming coal can be converted into metallurgical coke, but none is currently produced for this purpose.

Coal mining in Wyoming dates back to around 1859, when small amounts of coal were produced for use at forts. Commercial mining began in 1867 along the Union Pacific Railroad's route in southern Wyoming. The extensive coal deposits discovered there provided fuel for locomotives on the transcontinental railroad, which was completed in 1869. Conversely, coal-hauling became a major source of revenue for the railroad. Early industrial coal consumers in Wyoming included coke plants and a coal-gas plant. Coal was also shipped to other States.

Wyoming's annual coal production rose from a little over 1 million short tons in 1887 to more than 9 million short tons during World War I. Subsequently, annual production declined to less than 7 million short tons, due to competition from oil discovered in the State and the economic depression. World War II spurred Wyoming's coal output to nearly 10 million short tons in 1945. Production then followed a downward trend, dropping below 2 million short tons in 1958. Many mines along the railroad closed as diesel-electric locomotives replaced coal-fired steam locomotives.

Wyoming's coal industry remained depressed until the early 1970's, when electric utilities turned to the State's low-sulfur coal to meet new air quality standards. Further interest in Wyoming coal was stimulated when the Arab oil embargo of 1973 brought sharp rises in oil prices and made coal the most economical fuel for power plants. The resulting coal-mining boom drove production to record-breaking levels each year except 1986. Wyoming's coal output increased from 7 million short tons in 1970 to 184 million short tons in 199[illegible] estimated at 194 million short tons in 19[illegible]

With large-scale surface mines de
coal in great amounts, the
existing lines and laid new
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Although underground mines produced most of Wyoming's coal before World War II, surface mines have predominated since then. Of the 29 surface mines active in 1990, 18 were large mines that together produced 180 million short tons, or 98 percent of the State total. Five of these mines, all in Campbell County, ranked as the five largest U.S. surface coal mines. Exceptionally large is the Black Thunder mine of Thunder Basin Coal Company, a subsidiary of ARCO Coal Company. This mine produced 28 million short tons in 1990 and about 30 million short tons in 1991. More than 250 million short tons have been produced from the Black Thunder mine since it was opened in 1977.

Coal is mined underground in several areas in Carbon and Sweetwater counties. Cyprus-Shoshone Coal Company's longwall operation in Carbon County produced 1.4 million short tons in 1990, accounting for nearly three-fourths of the State's underground coal production in 1990.

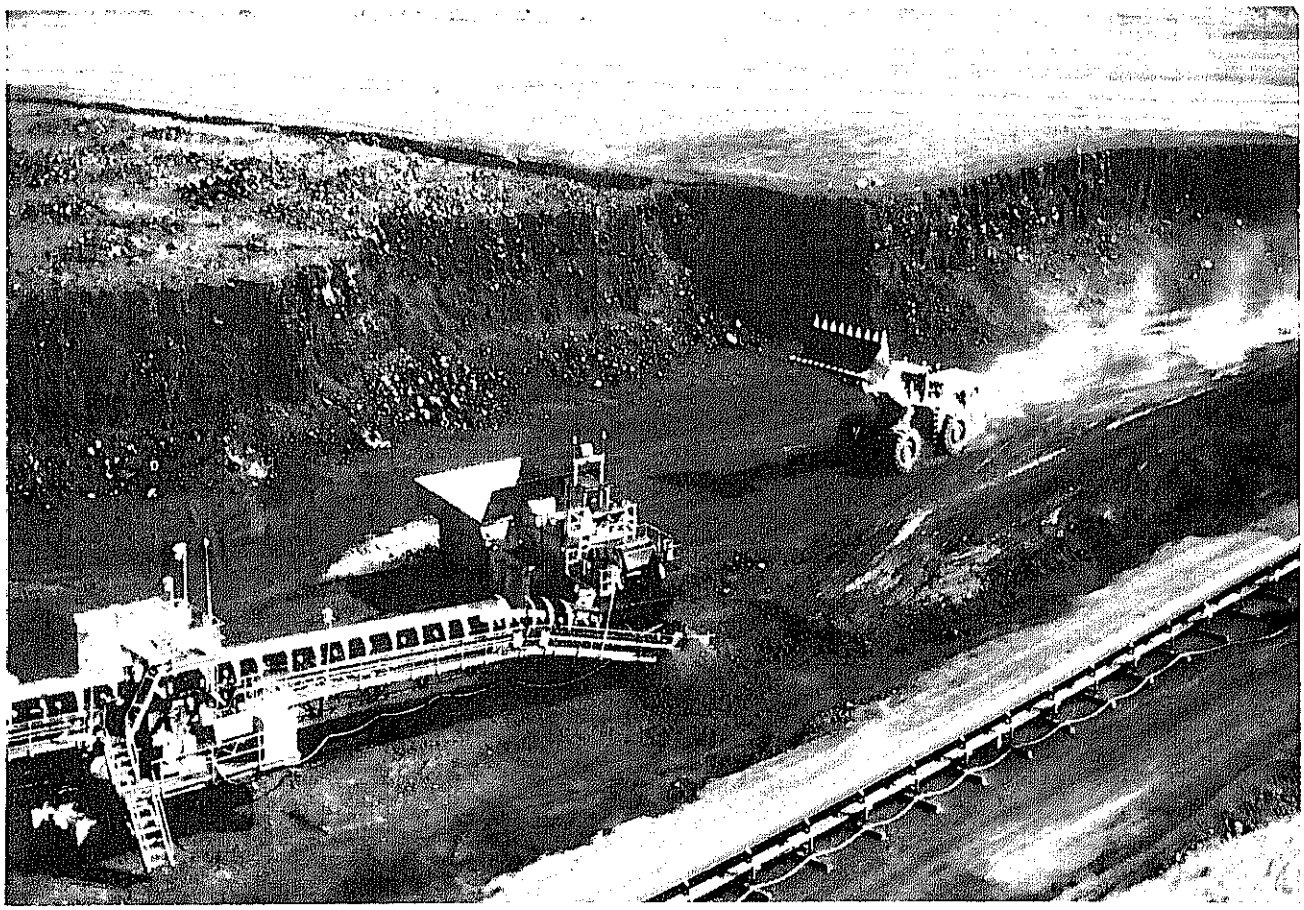
Reflecting the economies of scale achieved from the large-scale surface mining of thick coalbeds covered by relatively thin overburden, productivity at Wyoming's surface mines averaged 22.8 short tons per hour in 1990, the Nation's highest rate. Productivity at the 4 underground mines in the State averaged 2.8 short tons per hour, compared with an average of 4.0 short tons per hour for all underground mines in the West.

Of the total coal produced in Wyoming in 1990, about 86 percent was shipped to 27 other States, with Texas as the leading destination. About 31 million short tons were shipped east of the Mississippi River. Exports totaled 0.7 million short tons. The balance was delivered to consumers in the State. Nearly all of Wyoming's coal was used to generate electricity.

Virtually all of the 26 million short tons of coal consumed in Wyoming in 1990 were produced in the State. Electric utilities consumed about 24 million short tons. About 2 million short tons were used by industrial consumers, mostly manufacturers of inorganic chemicals. A small amount of bituminous coal received from Utah was converted into chemical coke, used for processing phosphate rock in Idaho.

Wyoming's seven coal-fired power plants had a net summer generating capability of 5,525 megawatts (MW) in 1991, which was 95 percent of the State's total. In 1991, these plants generated 38 billion kilowatthours, accounting for 98 percent of the total electricity generated in the State. Most of the electricity was transmitted to consumers in other States.

The 2,060-MW Jim Bridger plant, operated by PacifiCorp near Rock Springs, is the largest coal-fired power station in Wyoming and one of the largest in the United States. Two other power plants in the State, both near Gillette, are notable because they are the only air-cooled, steam-turbine power plants in the United States. Requiring water only for



'd conveyor transports coal from this mine in the Powder River Basin to a rail-loading facility. The ned is the Wyodak.

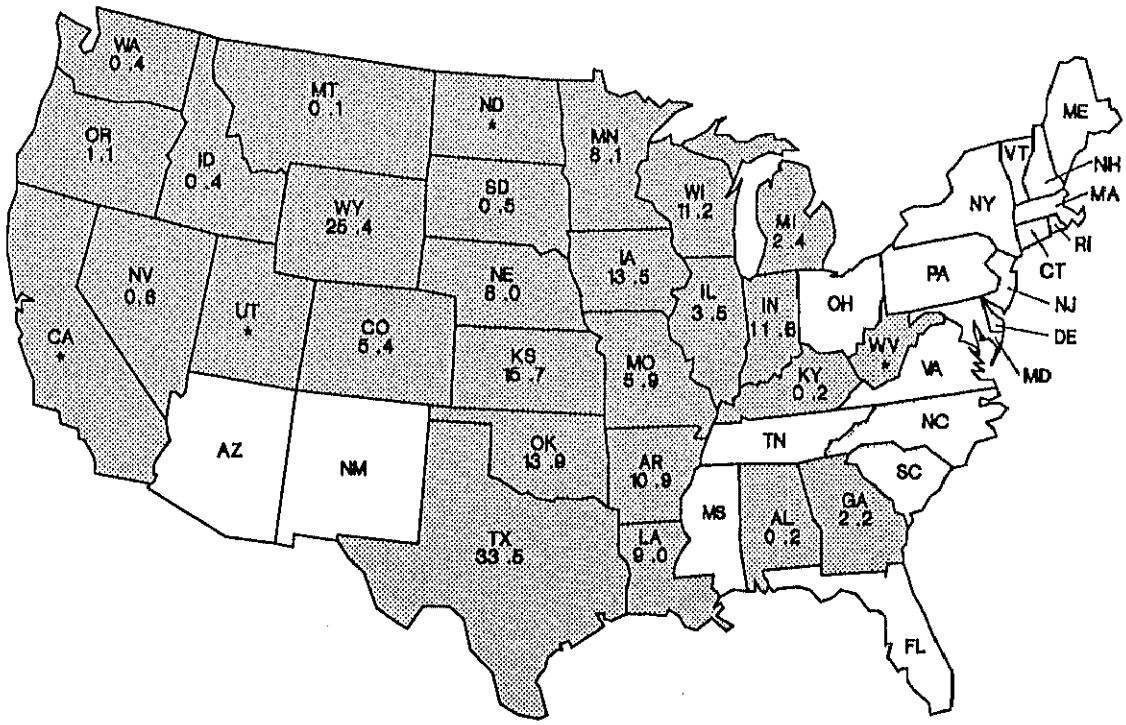
their boilers, these plants use a cooling system comprised of a large radiator and fans. One of these plants is the Black Hills Power and Light Company's 15-MW Neil Simpson plant. When this plant began operating in 1969, it was the first of its type in the western hemisphere. Construction of a new air-cooled 80-MW unit for the plant is scheduled to begin in 1993. The other air-cooled power plant in operation is PacifiCorp's 320-MW Wyodak plant, which is adjacent to the Neil Simpson plant. When the Wyodak plant began operating in 1978, it was the world's largest air-cooled coal-fired power plant. Since then, it has been surpassed by a plant in South Africa.

Several advanced coal technology projects are underway in Wyoming. Since 1989, Amax Coal Company has operated a coal-drying plant at its Belle Ayr mine in the Powder River Basin to lower the moisture content of the coal by about two-thirds and raise its heating value by about one-third. The dried coal can be blended with raw subbituminous coal or lignite to raise its overall heating value, or blended with high-sulfur coal to reduce sulfur emissions.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is funding 50 percent of the cost of two projects near Gillette under its Clean Coal Technology program. The first is the $72.6 million ENCOAL Mild Gasification Project of ENCOAL Corporation, a subsidiary of Shell Mining Company. This technology, operating at lower temperatures and pressures than conventional gasification processes, converts subbituminous coal into a liquid product similar to No. 6 fuel oil and a solid fuel with a higher heat content than the unprocessed coal. The other project is the $34.3 million Cordero Coal Upgrading

Distribution of Wyoming Coal, 1990

(Million Short Tons)
Domestic, 183.7
Exports, 0.7
Total 184.4



* Less than 0.1 million short tons

Source: Energy Information Administration, *Coal Distribution January-December 1990*, DOE/EIA-0125(90/4Q).

Demonstration Project of Cordero Mining Company. It will use the Carbontec Syncoal process to upgrade high-moisture subbituminous coal for use in power plants and industrial facilities designed to burn higher-Btu coal.

About $65 million in private and State funds will finance the construction of a commercial K-Fuels plant near Gillette, by K-Fuels Partnership and Enserv, a subsidiary of Wisconsin Power and Light Company. A pilot plant built there in 1988 demonstrated the use of K-Fuels technology on subbituminous coal to produce pellets that have a higher heat value and less moisture, ash, and sulfur than the raw coal.

In the past, the Federal Government and private industry conducted underground coal gasification projects in Wyoming, most of them near Hanna. These tests demonstrated that relatively flat-lying beds of coal can be gasified on a commercial scale.

Looking ahead, Wyoming's coal production is projected to rise to about 235 million short tons in 1995, according to the Geological Survey of Wyoming (GSW). Virtually all of the increase will be produced from Federal coal leases in the Powder River Basin.

Wyoming is expected to remain the Nation's major source of environmentally acceptable low-sulfur coal. The GSW, working under a cooperative agreement with the Energy Information Administration, estimated that about 13.8 billion short tons of the State's demonstrated reserve base of strippable coal is recoverable and can be classified as compliance coal, which emits 1.2 or less pounds of sulfur dioxide per million Btu when burned.

In addition to coal, coalbed methane has been produced in Wyoming since 1989 and added to the output of natural gas, which is composed chiefly of methane. Wyoming's coalbed methane resources are estimated to total as much as 60 trillion cubic feet, with the largest amounts in the Powder River Basin and the Greater Green River Basin in southwestern Wyoming. Known in Wyoming since the early 1900's, coalbed methane has been found in water wells, coal-investigation drill holes, where it was considered a hazard, and has been produced locally for ranch use. The recent commercial interest in coalbed methane was stimulated by the tax credits available to producers of unconventional gas.

References:

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Monthly Energy Review, updated the last week of the month
Short Term Energy Outlook, updated 60 days after the end of the quarter.